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LETTER DATED 14 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It is with great concern that I inform you about the renewed shelling from the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina onto the territory of the Republic of Croatia in the Dubrovnik region. The attacks are carried out by the Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces, with the assistance of the Army of Yugoslavia (JA).

The new series of attacks commenced on Saturday, 12 August. More than 3,000 impacts have been recorded as of 14 August, resulting in civilian casualties, numerous forest fires, and severe damage to civilian buildings and other property in the municipalities of Dubrovnik, Konavle and Ston. Especially disturbing was the shelling of the Dubrovnik airport Cilipi, which has sustained major damage, and is closed. The airport is a major transportation and supply route for the residents in the region.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia considers the attacks on the Dubrovnik region a major threat to its stability and national security, and reiterates that such attacks cannot be tolerated endlessly. Therefore, my Government should like to stress that it reserves its right to adequately respond to cross-border aggression and terrorism, consistent with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and consistent with other accepted norms of international behaviour, such as outlined in the Split Declaration of 22 July 1995.

The Croatian Government strongly urges the Security Council, as well as other relevant authorities, to bring the aggressive and terrorist attacks by the Bosnian Serb party to an end. Should the Bosnian Serb party choose to continue such attacks, the Croatian Government will be compelled to respond and stop the attacks at its source.

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May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative